



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Victoria L. Hamilton, Executive Director
619-236-6778

vhamilton@sandiego.gov

MAYOR RELEASES FY08 ARTS AND CULTURE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT AT PRESS CONFERENCE

SAN DIEGO- JUNE 9, 2009- Mayor Jerry Sanders, the City of San Diego Commission for Arts (Commission) and Culture and the San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition released the results of the FY08 report on the impact arts and culture has on the local economy and community.

“Our city is well served by the nonprofit arts and cultural organizations receiving funds from the Organizational Support Program (OSP) administered by the Commission,” said Mayor Sanders. “They provide entertainment, opportunities for education, help celebrate the variety and value of our diverse communities and provide a very substantial and positive boost to the economy of the region.”

The press conference was held at the Old Globe Theater’s Technical Center in southeast San Diego’s Diamond District, which employs more than 60 workers and served as an example of how the arts can stimulate the economy. “Arts and culture are good for business in San Diego,” the Mayor concluded.

The *FY08 Arts and Culture Economic and Community Impact Report* provides evidence that arts and cultural organizations are instrumental in making San Diego a vibrant city and help build a competitive and creative edge. The report found that the **72** arts and culture organizations funded by the Commission’s OSP program stimulate the economy with over **\$180** million in expenditures. The report also noted that economic activity created by cultural tourists - visitors who spend more and stay longer - is particularly important to San Diego, creating jobs and attracting revenue. In 2008, over **1.6** million visitors traveled to San Diego to participate in arts and cultural events funded by the Commission and pumped more than **\$394** million into the local economy including hotel expenditures that directly contribute to Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue.

According to the report, a vibrant arts and culture community serves us all. “The report especially emphasized the impact arts and culture jobs have on our economy,” said Commission Chair Colette Carson Royston. The 72 Commission-funded arts and culture organizations employ a workforce of more than **6,300**. According to research conducted by Americans for the Arts, **24,000** individuals are employed by more than **4,400** arts-related businesses.

The mission of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture is to vitalize the City by supporting the region's cultural assets, integrating arts and culture into community life and showcasing San Diego as an international tourist destination. For more information about the Commission, and to view the full report,” visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/arts-culture/hottopics.shtml>, or call 619-236-6800 for copies.